

AMENDMENTS TO THE APPLICATION

IN THE TITLE:

The title has been amended as follows:

Method and [assembly] apparatus for supporting a paper and board web in finishing equipment

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, the paragraph beginning on line 4 has been amended as follows:

The invention relates to a method [according to the preamble of claim 1] and apparatus for supporting and passing webs such as paper and board webs in a contacting manner in a paper/board machine in which the base web forming section is immediately followed by web finishing devices for immediate treatment of a web leaving the base web forming section.

Page 3, the paragraph beginning on line 17 has been amended as follows:

It is an object of the present invention to provide a method and apparatus for implementing a fully-supported travel of a web running on a wire or belt through the coating applicator and also, at least partially [supportedly] supported, during subsequent drying.

Page 8, the paragraph beginning on line 37 has been amended as follows:

In Fig. 2 is shown an alternative embodiment of the invention in which the web 1 leaving, e.g., the second coater station and its inverted roll group is passed to the next coating step and, simultaneously, the supported side of the web 1 is reversed, whereby the web is passed to run on a third wire 15. It must be noted that the web may as well be received from the wire of the papermaking machine. In the case that the wire is received from the first coater station, its both sides are already coated once, whereby the embodiment of Fig. 2 is used for applying a second coat layer. Therefore, the new layer of coating is applied in this embodiment to the first side of the web in a manner slightly different from that described above for the preceding coater

stations 4, 14. Herein, the applicator roll 16 is a large-diameter cylinder having dimensions approximately equal to those of the dryer cylinders and the web wraps this cylinder 16 under the loading pressure imposed by said third wire 15. The coating is metered on the applicator roll 16 by means of an applicator apparatus 6 located under the applicator roll, whereby the coat can be transferred to the web 1 during the long dwell time of the web on the cylinder surface. The application pressure is imposed by means of said third wire 15 and if so required, the loading pressure may be increased with the help of a press roll 17 or a sliding shoe pressing the wire 15 and the underlying web 1 against the applicator roll 16. From the applicator roll 16, the web 1 passes about a guide roll [18] having a noncontacting dryer 8 adapted to cooperate therewith. Next to the noncontacting dryer is disposed a postdryer cylinder 9, wherefrom web travels over an unsupported passage to a fourth wire 18 and a fourth coater station 19. Herein, the path and coating operations of the web are equivalent to those of the first coating step carried out on the second side of the web. After the application of the second coat layer to the second side of the web, the web is dried to its final moisture content and passed to an winder or, alternatively, the web can be passed to a calender, whereby the moisture content of the web must be controlled to a proper level for calendering.